NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The exploits of M. Robert-Houdin throw the wenders of previous jugglers into the shade, and establish his claims to being the most extraordinary elight-of-hand operator in the present age. He was born at Blois some fifty-four years since, was interded to follow the trade of his father, who was a watchmaker, but early imbibing a taste for tricks of legerdemain, as well as for mechanical investions, he commenced business in that line on his own account, after passing through an extended novitiate, and soon obtained celebrity throughout

He appears to have been first initiated into the sublime art of mystification by casually witnessing the performance of a distinguished professor of the

science, Dr. Carlosbach. One after-dinner, while walking along the side of the Loire, ergaged with the thoughts ruggested by the falling Autumn leaves, I was aroused from my reverie by the sound of a trumpet, evidently blown by a new faling Autains heaves, it was a rober from my re-by the sound of a trumpet, evidently blown by a prac-ticed performer. It may be easily supposed that I was not the last to obey this startling summons, and a few other idlers also formed a circle round the per-

He was a tall fellow with a quick eye, a sunbarned face, long and crispy hair, and he stemmed his fist in his side, while he held his head impudently high. His costume, though rather "loud," was still cleanly, and amounced a man who probably had "some hay is his boots, to use a favorite phrase of gentlemen in the same profession. He were a marcon-colored frock-coat, trimmed with large silver frogs, while round his neck was a black silk cravat, the two ends being passed ceck was a black slik cravat, he two code being passed through a jewelled ring, which a militonaire wonic not have disstained—had it not unfortunately been paste. He were no waistcost, but his shirt was remarkably white, and on it glistened a heavy mosaic chain, with a collection of appendages, whose metallic sound loudly appounced his every movement. I had ample time to make these observations, for as the antitude collected him slowly, the stranger con-

The dampie time to make these observations, for the andience collected but slowly, the stranger continued his trumpet overture for a quarter of an hour; at length, when an average crowd had assembled, the trumpet made way for the human voice. The actist laid the instrument on the ground, and walked round majestically to form a ring; then, stopping, he passed his hand through his hair, and began his address. Because the based of this charlestanding in the streets. ing little used to this charlarlatanism in the streets, I regarded the man with confiding admiration and determined not to lose a word of his address.

"Gentlemen," he commenced, in a firm and sonorous voice, "pray hear me. I am not what I seem to be: I may say more, I am what I do not seem to be. Yes, gentlemen, yes—confess it—you take me for one of those scurvy beggars who want to draw a few halfthose scurvy beggars who want to draw a few halfpence from your generosity. Well, you may undecieve
yourselves. Though you see me on this spot to day, I
tell you that I have only come here for the relief of
suffering humanity in general, then for your welfare in
particular, as well as for your amusement."

Here the orator, whose accent plainly showed that
he came from the banks of the Garonne, passed his
hand once more through his hair, raised his head,

sucked his lips, and, assuming an air of majestic dig-

"I will tell you presently who I am, and you will be able to estimate me at my true value; in the mean while allow me to offer you a slight specimen of my

placed before him a small table, on which he arranged three tin geblets, so well pollshed that they might have been taken for sliver; after which he fastened round his waist a red cotten velvet bag, into which he thrust his hands for some minutes—doubtlessly to prepare the tricks he intended to display—and the performance

During a long series of tricks, the nutmegs, at first invisible, appeared at the finger ends of the conjuror then they passed through the cups, under the table into a speciator's pockets, and finally emerged, to the general delight, from the nose of a young looker-on. The latter took the matter quite seriously, and half the later took the mater gate sanday, as a killed himself with sneezing, to see whether a few more pice bails might not be left in his brain. The address with which these tricks were done, and the apparent simplicity of the operator in the execution there ingenious artifices, produced the most perfect illusion—at least, as far as I was concerned.

It was the first time I had ever witnessed such sight: I was stupefied, astounded! The man who could perform such marvels at his will seemed to me a supernum an being; hence I saw him put saide his cape with considerable regret. The audience seemed equally charmed; the artist perceived it, and took advantage to tay. Then, resting his hand on the table, he proceeded:

Ladies and gentlemen I was very pleased to rotice the kind attention you devoted to my tricks, and I thank you for it, "there the conjurer bowed to the ground; "and, as I am anxious to prove that you have not to deal with an ungrateful person, I will attempt to repay in full the satisfaction you have made no seel. Design to listen to me for a moment." I recognized to tell you what I am: I will now satis-

me jeel. Beign to listee to me for a moment.

"I promise d to tell you what I am; I will now satisfy you." (Sudden change of countenance, and evidence of great self-esteem.) "You belook in me the celebrates Dr. Carlosbach: the composition of my name reveals to you my Argio Francisco-Germanic origin. To praise my self would be like painting the hip; I will, therefore, content myself with asying that I possess and can only be equaled by my modesty. Elected, by accianation, member of the most illustrions learned societies through the whole world, I incline before your judgment, which proclaims the superiority of my skill in the grand art of curing the human race."

This address, as strange as it was emphatic, was delivered with importurbable assurance; still I fancied I noticed a twitching of the lips, that revealed the grand dictor's ill-restrained desire to laugh. For all that, I listened attentively to his discourse. self would be like painting the hiv: I w

dector's ill-restrained desire

intended attentively to his discourse.

"But, gentlemen," he added, "I have said sufficient of myrelf; it is time to speak of my works. Learn, then, that I sun the inventor of the Vermituge Balaam, where severeign efficaciousness is indisputable. Ye gentlemen, the worm, that enemy of the human race the worm, the destroyer of everything existing—t

the worm, the destroyer of everything existing—the worm, that obstinate preyer on the living and the dead, is at length conquered by my science; a drop, an atom of this precious figure is sufficient to expel this fearful parasite for ever.

"And, gentlemen, such is the virtue of my marvelous beleam, that it not only delivers man from this frightful calamity during life, but his body has nothing to fear after death. Taking my baleam is a mode of embalming one's body prior to death; man is thus readered immortal. Ah! gentlemen, were you but acquainted with all the virtues of my sublime discovery, you would rush upon me and tear it from me; but, as that would be illegal, I check myself in time."

The orator, in fact, stopped, and dried his brow with one hand, while with the other he motioned to the crows that he had not yet ended his discourse. A greater number of the audience were already striving to approach the learned doctor: Carlwhach here were to approach the learned dector; Carlosbach, however, did not appear to notice it and, reassuming his dramatic

"But you will ask me, what can be the price of such a treasure? can we be rich enough to purchase it? The moment has now arrived, gentlemen, to make you understand the full extent of my disinterestedness. you understand the full extent of my district extent.

This balsam, in the discovery of which I have worn oney my days—this balsam, which sovereigns have purchased at the price of their crown—this balsam, in short, which is beyond all price—well, I make you a

present of it! see unexpected words, the crowd, pasting with emotion, lifted up its eager arms, and implored the gen-erosity of the dector. But, what shameful deception! Carlosbach—the celebrated Dr. Carlosbach—this beaefactor of humanity, suddenly shered his tone, and burst into a Homeric shout of laughter. The arms in down spontaneously; the audience looked vacantly into each other's faces. At length one laughed. The contagion spread, and soon everybody was following the conjuger's example. He was the first to stop, and demanded silence:

"Gentlemen!" he then said, in a perfectly respect-

and demanded suspect.

"Gentlemen!" he then said, in a perfectly respectful tore, "do not be sagry with me for the lattle track.

I have played you; I wished thus to put you on your
guard against these charlatans who daily deceive you,
just as I have done myself. I am no doctor, but simply a conjurer, professor of mystification, and author of
a bock, in which you will find, in addition to the discourse I have just delivered, the description of a great
where of conjuring tricks. Would you like to learn number of conjuring tricks. Would you like to learn the art of amusing yourself in society? For sixpence you may satisfy your curlosity."

The conjurer produced from a box an enormous packet of books; then, going round the crowd, he soon disposed of his wares, thanks to the interest his talent had excited. The exhibition was over, and I returned home with my head full of a world of unknown sensations.

li will be readily supposed that I purchased one of these precious volumes. I hastened to examine it; but the faise doctor continued his system of mystification in it, and despite all my good will, I could not understand one of the tricks he pretended to explain. However, I had the famous speech I have just quoted, as some

sort of consolation.

I made up my mind to lay the book aside and think no more of it; but the marvels it announced returned to my mind every moment. "O Carlosbach!" I said

in my modest ambition, "if I possessed your talent, how happy I should feel!" and, filled with this idea, I decided on taking lessons of the learned professor. Unfortunately, this determination was arrived at too late. When I proceeded to his lodgings, I learned that the conjurer had resorted to his own tricks, and had left his inn the previous evening, forgetting to pay the princely score he had run up. The innkeeper gave me thefaccount of this last mystification on the part of the professor.

After fairly launching in his career of adventure, he rapidly makes friends with the public, and numbers among his audience the highest dignitaries of church and state. Here is an account of a performance at the royal palace, for the entertainment

of King Louis Philippe and his household: At the beginning of November, I received a "com-mand" to St. Cloud, to give a performance before Louis Philippe and his family. I accepted the invitation with the greatest pleasure; for as yet I had never per-formed before a crowned head, this was an important

west for me.

I had six days before me to make my preparations and I took all possible pains, even arranging a trick for the occasion, from which I had reason to expect an

excellent result.

On the day fixed for my performance, a fourgos came at an early hour to fetch me and my apparatus, and we were conveyed to the chaisan. A theater had been put up in a large hall selected by the king for the representation, and in order that I might not be distanced in an architecture. turbed in my preparations, a guard was placed at one of the doors leading into the corridor. I also noticed three other doors in this apartment; one, composed of glass, opened on to the garden opposite a passage filled with splendid orange trees; the two others, to the right and left, communicated with the apartments of the

and left, communicated with the spartments of the king and the Duchees of Orleans.

I was busy arranging my apparatus, when I heard one of the doors I have just mentioned open quietly, and directly a voice made the following inquiry in the

most affable manner:
"Monsieur Robert-Houdin, may I be permitted to

I turned my head in the direction, and recognized the king, who, having asked this question merely as a form of introduction, had not waited for my reply to walk

I bowed respectfully.

"Have you all you require for your preparations? the king asked me

sire; the steward of the chateau supplied me with skilled workmen, who speedily put up this little My tables, corsoles, and tabourets, as well as the

various instruments for my performance, symmetrically arranged on the stage, already presented an elegant

various instruments for my performance, symmetrically arranged on the stage, already presented an elegant appearance.

"This is all very pretty," the king said to me, drawing near the stage, and casting a stealthy glance on some of my apparatus; "I see with pleasure that the artest of 1846 will justify the good opinion produced by the mechanician of 1844."

"Sire," I replied, "on this day I will strive, as I did two years ago, to render myself worthy of the great favor your majesty deigns to bestow on me, by witnessing my performance.

"Your son's second sight is said to be very surprising," the king continued; "but I warn you, Monaseur Robert-Houdin, to be on your guard, for we intend to cause you occasiderable difficulties."

"Sire," I replied boldly, "I have every reason for believing that my son will surmount them."

"I should be vexed were it otherwise," the king said, with a tinge of incredulity, as he retired. "Monaieur Robert Houdin," he added, as he closed the door after him, "I shall feel obliged by your punctuality."

At four o'clock precisely, when the royal family and the numerous guests were assembled, the curtains that concealed me opened, and I appeared on the stage. Owing to my repeated performances, I had fortunately acquired an imperturbable assurance, and a confidence in myself which the success of my experiments fully justified.

I becan in the most profound silence, for the party

I began in the most profound silence, for the party evidently wished to see and judge before giving me any encouragement. But, insensibly, they became ex-cited, and I heard several exclamations of surprise, which were soon followed by still more expressive dem-

opetrations.

All my tricks were favorably received, and the one I had invented for the occasion gained me unbounded

applause.
I will give a description of it: I begrowed from my noble spectators several hand-terchiefs, which I made into a parcel, and laid on the

kerchiefs, which I made into a parcel, and lail on the table. Then, at my request, different persons wrote on the cards the names of places whither they desired their handkerchiefs to be invisibly transported. When this had been done, I begged the king to take three of the cards at hazard, and choose from them the place he might consider most suitable.

"Let us see," Louis Philippe said, "what this one says: 'I desire the handkerchiefs to be found beneath the control of the cards at the cards are the places." That is too

one of the candelabra on the mantlepiece. That is too easy for a sorcerer; so we will pass to the next card: 'The handkerchiefs are to be transported to the dome of the Invalides. That would suit me, but it is much too far, not for the hanckerchiefs, but for us. Ah, ah "the king added, looking at the last card, "I am afraid, Monsieur Robert-Houdin, I am about mbarrass you. Do you know what this card it will your majesty deign to inform me." It is desired that you should send the chiefs into the chest of the last orange-tree on the state of the state orange-tree on the state of the last orange-tree on the state of the last orange-tree on the state orange-tree on the state orange-tree on the state orange-tree on the state of the state orange-tree on the state or the state orange-tree on the state or the

of the avenue, sire? Deign to order, and I will obey."
"Only that, sire? Deign to order, and I will obey."
"Very good, then; I should like to see such a magic
act: I therefore choose the orange tree chest." The king gave some orders in a low voice, and I di-

rectly saw several persons run to the orange-tree, in order to watch it, and prevent any fraud. delighted at this precaution, which must add to the effect of my experiment, for the trick was already stranged, and the precaution hence too late.

I had now to send the handkerchiefs on their travels.

to I placed them beneath a beil of opaque glass, and, taking my wand, I ordered my invisible travelers to proceed to the spot the king had chosen.

proceed to the spot the king had chosen.

I raised the bell; the little parcel was no longer there, and a white turtle-dove had taken its place.

The king then walked quickly to the door, whence he looked in the direction of the orange-tree to assure himself that the guards were at their post; when this was done, he began to smile and shrug his shoulders.

"Ah Monsieur Robert Houdin," he said, somewhat ironically. "I much fear for the virtue of your magic staff." Then he added, as he returned to the end of the room, where several servants were standing, "Tell the room, where several servants were standing, "Tell William to open immediately the last chest at the end of the avenue, and bring me carefully what he finds

there—if he does find anything."

William soon proceeded to the orange-tree, and, though much astonished at the orders given him, he

began to carry them out.

He carefully removed one of the sides of the chest, thrust his hand in, and almost touched the roots of the tree before he found anything. All at once he uttered a cry of surprise, as he drew out a small iron coffer

caten by rust.

This curious "find," after having been cleaned from the mold, was brought in and placed on a small otto

man by the king's side.
"Well, Monsieur Robert-Houdin," Louis Philippe
said to me, with a movement of impatient curiosity,
"here is a box; am I to conclude it contains the hand-Yes, sire," I replied, with assurance, " and they

we been there, too, for a long period."
How can that be I the handkerchiefs were lent you

scarce a quarter of an hour ago.

"I cannot deny it, sire; but what would my magic
powers avail me if I could not perform incomprehensible tricks? Your majesty will denbtless be still more

sible tricks? Your majesty will doubtless be all more surprised, when I prove to your satisfaction that this poffer, as well as its contents, was deposited in the chest of the orange tree sixty years ago.

"I should like to believe your statement," the king replied, with a smile; "but that is impossible, and I must, therefore, ask for proofs of your assestion.

"If your majesty will be kind enough to open this carket, they will be supplied."

ket, they will be supplied."
Certainly; but I shall require a key for that."

"It only depends on yourself, sire, to have one.
Deign to remove it from the neck of this turtle-dove,
which has just brought it to you."
Louis Philippe unfastened a ribbon that held a small
rusty key, with which he hastened to unlock the coffer.
The first thing that caught the king's eye was a
parchment, on which he read the following statement:
This fast this fit have, he'st have, 1986 have.

parconnent, on which he read the following statement:
This from box, containing six handkerchiefs, was placed suring
the roots of an orange-time by me, Balanco, Count of Cagifactro
to error in performing an act of made, which will be executed on
the same day sixty years hence before Louis Philippe of Orienze
and bis family.

There is decidedly witchcraft about this," the king said, more and more amazed. "Nothing is wanting, for the seal and signature of the celebrated sorcerer are placed at the foot of this statement, which, Heaven

are placed at the foot of this statement, which, fleaven panden me, smells strongly of sulphur.

At this jest, the sudience began to laugh.

But, the king added, taking out of the box a care-folly-scaled parket, "can the handkerchiefs by possi-

bility be in this !"

"Indeed, sire, they are; but, before opening the parcel, I would request your majesty to notice that it also bears the impression of Caghistro's seal."

This seal once rendered so famous by being placed on the celebrated alchemist's bottle of elixir and liquid gold, I had obtained from Torrini, who had been an old triend of Caghistro's.

gold, I had obtained from Torrini, who had been an old frierd of Cagliostro's.

"It is certainly the same," my royal spectator answered, after comparing the two seals. Still, in his impatience to learn the contents of the parcel, the king quickly tore open the envelope, and soon displayed be-fore the astonished spectators the six handkerchiefs which, a few moments before, were still on my table.

After a brilliant career in the principal cities of

Europe, M. Robert-Houdin, was rummoned by the government officials of Algeria to proceed to that colory and give his performances before the principai chiefteins of the Arab tribes, in order to play off his tricks against the conjuring miracles of the Maraboute. He gives a graphic account of his debut in the theater of Algiers:

On the 28th of October, the day appointed for my first performance before the Arabs, I reached my post at an early hour, and could enjoy the sight of their ea-

trace into the theater.

Each gound, drawn up in companies, was introduced separately, and led in perfect order to the piaces chosen for it in advance. Then came the turn of the chiefs, who seated themselves with all the gravity beoming their character.

coming their obstacter.

Their ixtroduction lasted some time, for these sons of nature could not understand that they were boxed up thus, side by side, to enjoy a spectacle, and our comtous, side by side, to enjoy a specialty, and our fortable seats, far from seeming so to them, bothered them strangely. I saw them fidgeting about for some time, and trying to tuck their legs under them, after the fashion of European tailors.

Marthal Randon, with his family and suite, occupied

the two stage boxes to the right of the stage, while the prefect and other civilian authorities sat exactly acing him. As for Col. de Nevez, he was every where, as the arranger of the festival. The caids, agas, bash-agas, and other titled Arabs,

held the places of honor, for they occupied the or-chestra stalls and the dress circle.

In the midst of them were several privileged officers, and, lastly, the interpreters were mingled among the spectators, to translate my remarks to

I was also told that several curious people, having been trable to procure tickets, had assumed the Arab burnous, and, binding the camel's hair cord round toeir foreheads, had slipped in among their new co religion-

ata.

This strange medley of spectators was indeed a most This strange medley of spectators was indeed a most curious sight. The crees circle, more especially, presented an appearance as grand as it was imposing. Some sixty Arab chiefs, clothed in their red mantles (the symbol of their submission to France), on which one or more decorations glistened, gravely awaited my performance with majestic dignity.

I have performed before many brilliant assemblies, but never before one which struck me so much as this. However, the impression I feit on the rise of the curtain, far from paralyzing me, on the contrary inspired me with a lively sympathy for the spectators.

cortain, far from paralyzing me, on the contrary inspired me with a lively sympathy for the spectators,
whose faces seemed so well prepared to accept the
marvels promised them. As soon as I walked on the
stage, I felt quite at my ease, and enjoyed in anticipation the sight I was going to assume myself with.

I felt, I confess, rather inclined to laugh at myself
and my audience, for I stepped forth, wand in hand,
with all the gravity of a real sorcerer. Still, I did not
give way, tor I was here not merely to amuse a curious
and kind public. I must produce a startling effect apon give way, for I was here not merely to amuse a curious and kind public, I must produce a startling effect upon coarse minds and prejudices, for I was enacting the part of a French Marabout.

Compared with the simple tricks of their pretended sorcerers, my experiments must appear perfect miracles to the Arabe.

cles to the Arabe.

I commerced my performance in the most profound, I might almost say religious, silence, and the attention of the spectators was so great that they seemed petrified. Their fingers alone moving nervously, played with the beads of their resaries, while they were, doubliesely, invoking the protection of the Most High. This apathetic condition did not suit me, for I had not come to Algeria to visit a wax-work exhibition. If

not come to Algeria to visit a wax-work exhibition. I wanted mevement, animation, life in fact, around me. I changed my batteries, and, instead of generalizing my remarks, I addressed them more especially to some of the Arabe, whom I stimulated by my words, and still more by my actions. The attraishment then gave way to a more expressive feeling, which was soon evinced by noisy outbursts.

This was especially the case when I produced cannon balls from a hat, for my spectators, laying anide their gravity, expressed their delighted admiration by the strongers and most energetic gestures.

the strongest and most energetic gestures.

Then came—greated by the same success—the bouquet of flowers, produced instantaneously from a

hat; the cornacepia, supplying a multitude of objects, which I distributed, though unable to satisfy the repeated demands made on all sides, and still more by those who had their hands fall already; the five-frame pieces, sent across the theater into a crystal box suspended above the spectators.

One trick I should have liked to perform was the inexhaustible bottle, so appreciated by the Parisians and the Manchester "hands;" but I could not employ it in

is performance, for it is well known the fellowers of columnated drink no fermented liquor—at least not abliedy. Herce, I substituted the tollowing with conpublicly. Herce, I substituted the tollowing with considerable advantage.

I took a silver cup, like those called "punch-bowls" in the Parisian cafes. I unscrewed the fost, and passing my wand through it showed that the vessel contained nothing: then having refitted the two parts, I went to the center of the pit, when at my command, the bowl was magically filled with sweetmeats, which were found excellent.

were found excellent.

The sweetmeats exbausted, I turned the bowl over The sweetmans choose of the property of the sweetman proposed to fill it with excellent coffee; so, gravely passing my hard thrice over the bowl, a dense vapor immediately issued from it, and announced the preceive of the precious liquid. The bowl was tail of boiling coffee, which I poured into cups, and offered to

boning correct which I poured into cape, and converge my astounded spectators.

The first cups were only accepted, so to speak, under protest; for not an Arab would consent to meisten his lips with a beverage which he thought came straight from Shaitan's kitchen; but, insensity sedned by the perfume of their avorte liquor, and urged by the interpreters, some of the boidest decided on tasting the magic liquor, and all soon followed their example.

The vessel, rapidly emptied, was repeatedly filed again with equal rapidity: and it satisfied all demands, like my inexhaustible bottle, and was borne back to

the stage still full.

But it was not enough to amuse my spectators; I must also, in order to tainly the object of my mass on start e and even terrify them by the display of a super

My arrangements had all been made for this purose, and I had reserved for the end of my perform ness three tricks, which must complete my reputs n as a sorceier. Many of my readers will remember having seen a

my performances a small but solidly-built box, which, being handed to the spectators, becomes heavy or light at my order; a child might raise it with ease, and yet the most powerful man could not move it from is place.
I advanced with my box in my hand, to the center

I advanced with my box in my hand, to the center of the "practicable," communicating from the stage to the pit; then, addressing the Arabs, I said to them: "From what you have witnessed, you will attribute a supernatural power to me, and you are right. I will give you a new proof of my marvelous authority, by showing that I can deprive the most powerful man of his strength, and rectore it at my will. Any one who thinks himself strong enough to try the experiment may draw near me." [I spoke slowly, in order to give the interpreter time to translate my words.]

An Arab, of middle hight, but well built and mus ular, as many of the Arabe are, came to my

miar, as many of the Armania.

with sufficient assurance.

"Are you very strong?" I said to him, measuring him from head to foot.

"Oh, yes!" he replied carelessly.

"Are you sure you will always remain so?"

Quite sure."
You are mistaken, for, in an instant, I will re rou of your strength, and you shall become as a little

The Arab smiled disdainfully as a sign of his incredu-

lity.

"Stay," I continued: "lift up this box."

The Arab stooped, lifted up the box, and said to me, coldly, "Is that all!"

"Wait \_\_\_\_!" I replied.

Then, with all possible gravity, I made an imposing geture, and solemnly pronounced the words:

"Helping! you are weaker than a woman; now, try to lift the box."

The Heroules, quite cool as to my conjuration, seized he box once again by the handle, and gave it a violent og, but this time the box resisted, and spite of als most

by, but this time the box resisted, and speech as most eigerous artecks, would not budge an inch.

The Arab vainly expended on this unlucky box a trength which would have raised an enormous weight, intil, at length, exhausted, panting, and red with anger, he slopped, became thoughtful, and began to compre-berd the influence of imagic.

He was on the point of withdrawing; but that would a sllowing his makeres, and that he hitherto re-

be allowing his weakness, and that he hitherto re-spected for his vigor, and become a little child. This hought sendered him almost mad.

Deriving fresh strength from the encouragements his risade offered him by word and deed, he turned a glance ound him, which seemed to say: "You will see what of the desert can do.

a son of the desert can do.

He best once again over the box: his nervous hands
twined round the handle, and his legs, placed on either
eite like two bronze columns, servou as a support for But, wonder of wonders! this Hercules, a moment

But, wonder of wonders! this Hercules, a moment since so strong and proud, now bows his head; his arms riveted to the box, undergo a violent muscular contraction; his legs give way, and he falls on his knees with a yell of agony!

An electric shock, produced by an inductive apparatus, had been passed, on a signal from me, from the further end of the stage into the handle of the box. Hence the contortions of the poor Arab!

It would have been cruelty to prolong this scene.

I gave a second signal, and the electric current was in mediately intercepted. My athlete, disengaged from his terrible bondage, raised his hands over his head.

"Allah! Allah!" he exclaimed, full of terror; then wrapping himself up quickly in the folds of his bur-

nous, se if to hide his disgrace, he rushed through the rarks of the spectators and gained the front entrance. With the exception of my stage boxes and the priv-leged spectators who appeared to take great pleasure in leged spectators who appeared to take great present in this experiment, my andience had become grave and si-lent, and I heard the words "Shaitan!" Discount! passing in a murmar round the circle of credindus mea, abo, while gaming on me, seemed astomated that I possessed more of the physical qualities attributed to

possesses in the size of darkness.

I allowed my public a few moments to recover from the emotion produced by my experiment and the flight of the herculean Arab.

Ote of the means employed by the Marabouts to gain influence in the eyes of the Arabe is by causing a

belief in their invulnerability.

One of them, for instance, ordered a gua to be loaded and fired at him from a short distance, but is vain did the fligt produce a shower of sparks; the

Marabott pronounced some cabalistic words, and the gus did not explode. The mystery was simple enough; the gun did not go off because the Marabout had skullfully stopped up

Colorel de Nevue explained to me the important of discrediting such a miracle by opposing to it a sleight-of-band trick far superior to it, and I had the very article.

very article.

I informed the Arabe that I possessed a talisman rendering me invulnerable, and I defied the best marksto in A geria to hit me.

had hardly uttered the words when an Arab, who

had hardly differed the works when a Asso, when attention he had paid to my tricks, jumped over four rows of seats, and disdining the use of the "practicable," crossed the orchestra, unpacting finites, claritonets, and violins, cecaladed the stage, while burning himself at the foothights, and then said, in excellent Franch.
"I will kill you!"

As immense burst of laughter greeted both the

Arab's picture-que ascent and his murderous intertiens, while an interpreter who stood near me told me I had to deal with a Marabout.

"You wish to kill me!" I replied, imitating his accent and the inflection of his voice. "Weil, I reply that though you are a sorreror, I am still a greater one, and you will not kill me."

and you will not kill me."
I held a cavalry pistol in my hand, which I presented

him.

Here take this weapon, and assure yourself it has The Arab breathed several times down the barrel. then through the nipple, to assure himself there was a communication between them, and after carefully ex-

an ining the pistol, said:
"The wespon is good, and I will kill you."
"As you are determined, and for more certainty, put
in a double charge of powder, and a wad on the top.

"It is dotte."
"It is dotte."
"Now here is a leaden ball; mark it with your knife, so as to be able to recognize it, and put it in the pistol, with a second wad."

"Nos that you are quite sure your pistol is loaded, and that it will explode, tell me, do you feel no remore, to ecruple about killing me thus, although I authorize No, for I wish to kill you," the Arab repeated,

Without replying, I put an apple on the point of a knife, and, standing a few yards from the Marabout, ordered him to fire.

"A in straight at the heart," I said to him.

My opponent aimed immediately, without the slight-

t hesitation.

The pistol exploded, and the bullet lodged in the retter of the apple.

I earried the talisman to the Marabout, who recog

I carried the talashan to the marked.

I could not say that this trick produced greater superaction than the one preceding it; at any rate, my spectators, palsied by surprise and terror, looked round in silence, seeming to think, "Where the dence have we set to here."

spectators, passed by surprise and terror, looked fround in silence, seeming to think, "Where the dence have we got to here!"

A pleasant scene, however, soon unwrinkled many of their faces. The Marabout, though stupefied by his defeat, had not lost his wits; so, profiting by the moment when he returned me the pistol, he seized the apple, thrust it into his waist belt, and could not be included as the was that he possed to extend it preparated as he was that he possed to extend it preparated as he was that he possed to extend it preparated as he was that he possed to extend it.

onced to return it, persuated as he was that he pos-essed it in an incomparable talisman.

For the last trick in my performance I required the assistance of an Arab.

At the request of several interpreters, a young Moor, about twenty years of age, tall, well built, and richly cressed, consented to come on the stage. Bolder and

pleins, he walted firmly up to me.

I drew him toward the table that was in the center of the stage, and pointed out to him and to the other spectators that it was slightly built and perfectly isolated. After which, without further preface, I told him to mount upon it, and covered him with an exormous cloth come, open at the top.

Then, drawing the cone and its contents on to a Then, drawing the cone and its contents on to lank, the ends of which were held by my servants as

plank, the eads of which were held by my servants and myself, we waked to the footlights with our heavy burden, and upset it. The Moor had disappeared—the cone was perfectly smpty! Immediately there began a spectacle which I shall The Arabe were so affected by this last trick, that,

The Arabs were so affected by his last thee, that impelled by an irrespitable feeling of terror, they rose is all parts of the house, and yielded to the influence of ageneral panic. To tell the truth, the crowd of fagilities was denest at the door of the dress circle, and it could be seen, from the agolity and confusion of these high dignitaries, that they were the first to wish to leave the large. ave the house. Vainly did one of them, the Caid of the Beni Salah. more courageous than his colleagues, try to restr

them by his words: them by his words:
"Stay! etsy! we cannot thus less one of our co-religionists. Surely we must know what has become of him, or what has been done to him. Stay! stay!" But the coreligionists only ran away the faster, and con the courageous Caid, led away by their example, sollowed them.

They little knew what awaited them at the door of the theater; but they had scarce gone down the step when they found themselves face to face with the "re-suscitated Moor."

The first movement of terror overcome, they sur-

The next inverse in the consequestioned him; but, annoyed by these repeated questions, he had no better resource than to escape at full speed.

The next evening the second performance took place, and produced nearly the same effect as the previous

M. Robert-Houdain, it seems, is now reposing on his wizard laurels in Paris. The course of years has brought philosophical contentuent, and, according to his own confession, "he has reached the object of every hope." He is preparing another volume explaining the magner in which slightof-band and other conjuring tricks and deceptions are performed; which, however instructive it may be to persons fond of prying into the mysteries of legerdemain, can scarcely equal the interest of the present entertaining narrative.

THE LOST AND FOUND; Or. LIFE AMONG THE POOR. By Samuel B. Halliday. 12mo pp. 356. Blakeman & Ma

Within the nast twenty-one months there have been arrested by the Police of New-York, one hundred and ten thousand, nine hundred and seven'y-one persons. Of these about one-third were females, and four-fifths of the entire number foreigners.

During the year 1858 there were admitted into the Alms-House, three thousand eight hundred and ninety ersons: into Bellevue Hospital, seven thousand ninhundred and twenty-five persons, and into the Hospital en Blackwell's Island, four thousand one hundred and forty-one persons. We make no mention here of the children sent to Randall's Island, or the large number of persons in the various institutions of he city, supported by private charity. We merely speak of that vast army arrested by the Police fo rime-of that mighty throng of sick, distitute, and abandoned, who seek for shelter and belp within the walls of our Alms-House and our Hospitals.

These statistics, which we extract from the abovenamed work, are in themselves sufficiently startling awaken the interest of every thinking man; but on urning to another page, we find, that not only has rime been rapidly on the increase, but also that the mortality of the city during the past twenty years has percased in a fearful ratio.

Of still-born children, there was in 1810 one in every 025 of population, and in 1855 one in every 324. Of deaths under one year, there was in 1810 one in every 332 of population, and in 1855 one in every 99. Of those from one to two years, we have in 1810 one in every 470, and in 1855 one in every 300. From two to five years, in 1810, we have one in every 570, and in 1855 one in every 244; and so on in the same ratio during the years of childhood.

In 1810 the deaths were one in every 444, and in \$55 one in every 264, or nearly two to one. Where are we to look for the cause of this fearful

acrease of crime in New-York -of this terrific increase of mortality, especially in infancy and early childhood? Why is it that crime, and poverty, and death, increase with such fearful repidity in a city with one of the

nost bealthy locations in the world - waster on every ade by large rivers -with a vest river of Pro water flowing through its streets and lanes, into the alares of the rich and the tenements of the poor?

On turning to another page of Mr. Hall day's book or questions are easily answered. About the fourths of the entire population live in bouses whis contain from three to forty families each. In the Firs Word, of 2 814 families, 2 341 live in tenement houses, and in fifty-five houses there are 70 souls to each house. In the Teath Ward seventy-th ree houses have an average of 80 souls to a house. In the Eleventh Ward there are 10,000 families, or about seven families to the house. 113 of the rear houses contain about 70 ouls each. In the Fourteenth Ward there are 72 houses containing 95 sculs each. There are in the city 3,000 dwellinge, centaining a population of over 152,000 onls; 600 houses with 50,000 souls within their walls; 193 houses with 111 persons to a house, or 21,397 souls: 29 houses containing 180 souls each, or a population of 5 489 persons. The Fifth avenue, from the Parade Ground to the Reservoir, a distance of about two miles, has about 400 families; while in a single block of terement houses there are 700 famil

In 1850 the estire population of New-York was 15.394; number of families, 93,688; and of dwellings, 37 607. Philadelphia, in 1850, had a population of 408,762, and with 21,216 families less than New-York, had 93 601 more dwellings.

After reading these statistics, need we wonder that more than half the children die before they reach the age of ten years? seed we worder that our Hospitals and Alms-Houses are filled, that our prisons are rowced, and that a vast army of police is required to protect the property and the lives of our citizens? What else could we expect when thousands of human beings are herded together like swine, leving in filth, breathing a poisoned air, surrounding their children with influences which blunt every moral sensibility and render the commission of prime casy. The picture which Mr. Halliday gives of many of these tenement houses—the filth, the degradation, the poverty, the tainted atmosphere, cellars filled with human beings s ceping on rotten straw and covered with filthy rage. men, women, and children, black and white, of every color and race, her ring together, with every sense of modesty and shame blotted out-when we reflect it is no fancy sketch, but drawn from life in the very midst of us, may well thrill us with borror.

We tremble as we hear of the gradual approach to ur shores of some fearful pestilence; vessels and assengers from infected ports are quarantiped, and every precaution taken to protect the lives of our citizens. And all the while we have around us, almost at our doors, nurseries of pestilence more to be dreaded than the cholers or pellow fever-thousands of busy hancs scattering broadcast over the city seeds of noral and physical disease.

Some of our city officia's are applauded for cleaning the streets, and tearing down the filthy swine rookeries which for a long time have existed in certain portions of the city. Let them proceed one step further, and attack many of these tenement houses as nuisances to be abated by the law, and level them with he ground, or compel their owners to so alter them that the light and the pure air of heaven can enter freely and uncontaminated. And then permit no house to be erected unless ample provisions are made fer eleminess and free ventilation. Then, when the landlerds have done their part, let the occupants be compelled to keep the premises clean. Do this, and mortality, crime and taxes will rapidly decrease, and New-York speedily become the cleanest and most healthy eity in the world.

ANNALS OF THE AMERICAN PULPIT. By WILLIAM B.

Dr. Sprague continues his ardnous labors in comnemorating the virtues and abilities of the American elergy, with unexampled fidelity and success. Solely intent on the interests of historical truth, he is unwearied in the collection of materials from the most auheatic sources, and with singular freedom from perenal or denominational biases, has wrought them nto a series of impartial but vivid pictures, forming varied gallery, such as few departments of biography can boast. The present volume is devoted to istinguished ministers of the Bap ist denomination, and records the memerials of not a few of those ener getic and devoted men, who, without the a wantage f a liberal education, or the possession of scholastic ore, have contributed so largely to the establishment of freedom of mind, as well as of religious order, in this country. Among them were many whose originality of thought, vigorous and sometimes quaint ntensity of expression, and earnest zeal in their calling, would have made them conspicuous in any community. The vague traditions of their fame are familiar to the denomination of which they were the pillars; but the finished sketches which are here ven will introduce them to the knowledge of

A NATURAL PHILOSOPHY. By G. P. QUACKENBOSS, A.

public.

The claims of this new manual to the attention of ducaters are founded chiefly on its introduction of he most recent scientific discoveries, the clearness of ts method, and its appropriate popular illustrations. It embraces a comprehensive range of topics, includng, in addition to the usual titles, the subjects of Astronomy and Meteorology. The leading facts in Natural Philosophy are set forth with precision and revity, and with the simplicity of language demanded by the nature of the discussion. The copious engravgs, with which the volume is furnished, together with the lucid descriptions of experiments, and explarations of their results, adapt the work for use in chools which have not the advantage of a philosophi-

TREATISE ON ELEMENTARY AND HIGHER ALGE-

Pratt, Oakley & Co. In this recordite treatise, not only the present state of algebraic science, according to the most esteemed authorities, is exhibited, but the results are given of the author's original speculations, which he regards as constituting valuable additions to the science. He has attempted to establish more simple methods than usually prevail for the development of the roots of equations, as well as other cardinal processes, which hallenge the examination of mathematical students.

THE ARCHITECTS AND MECHANICS JOURNAL

This new periodical has been started in the interests of the professions indicated by its title, and is intended furnish them with a comprehensive chronicle and review of all that is going on in the building, mechan ical, and scientific world. The first number, now be fore us, contains several papers of interest and value, and affords a favorable promise of the future character

PLUTARCH'S LIVES. THE TRANSLATION CALLED DRY-DRY'S, CORRECTED FROM THE GREEN AND REVISED, by A. H. CLOGEN. 5 vols. 3vo. Little, Brown & Co. The reputation of the editor of these volumes, as

classical scholar of high attainments, and an acutand judicious critic, commends these volumes to the attention of the historical student, as well as the general reader. They are issued in the best style of American biography, and will prove a valuable ad-dition to the shelves of the library.

BOOKS RECEIVED

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The New American Cyclopedia. Edited by George Ripley and Charles A. Dana. Vol. VII. Feward — Fuerca. Stro. pp. 198. D. Appieton & Co.

Henry St. John, Gentleman. By John Esten Cooke. 12sno. pp. 363. Harper & Brothers

The Reformed Woman, Or, Passages from the Life of Mrs. Anna Cooley. By Edith Rivers. 12sno. pp. 267. Published for the Author.

Life in Tuesany. By Mabel Sharman Crawford. 12mo. pp. 379. Sheldon & Co.

Phitarnic Lifes. The Translation called Druden's corrected Lives. The Translation called Dryden's corrected the Greek and revised by A. H. Clough. 5 vols. 8vo. from the Graft and revised by A. H. Clough. S vol. 6vo.
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By the Author of "The Frinciples of Scientific Batting."
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SCIENCE, INDUSTRY AND INVENTION

COMPRISED AIR MOTOR. -As Mesers. Des Betten & Zell Pan of supplying Peris metive power, blant, ventilation, &c., by means air compressed by large stationary steam-engines, bel enveyed throughout the city in pipes to be lad a able attention among our speculators, it may be to to consider some of the difficulties to be encountered in economically effecting so desirable an object:

I. The size of the main pipes will, of course, depend on the amount of pressure or compactness given the air, 100 lbs. to the square inch requiring but half the diameter for the same quantity as in lbs., and or motor, a given bulk of air under a pressure of be. is capable of giving something more than twice the power, of the same bulk, unfer a pressure of a lbs.; other things being equal, the greatest possible compression would give the most economical result But the practical difficulties of leakage in the pulse and pipes, and the heating of machinery from the latent heat becoming sensible by compression, and its consequent less in elasticity, together with the impasibility of its being economically applied to machinery under great compression, must render a high pressure less practicable and more expensive than Again, the size of the mains must, of course, deposit on the velocity and quantity of air forced through them, and as the friction-which will in long pipes be a considerable item in the resistance offered to the condensing pump -increases in fluids as the square the velocity, a very rapid movement will be found impracticable, hence a slow motion and correspond

ingly large pipe will be necessary.

The quantity of steam ejected from the exhaust pipe of a 16 horse power engine, at the average preure used in this city, is about 17,000 feet per hour, et 170,000 feet per day of ten hours. The same quantity of atmospheric air, if compressed into one-quarter i bulk-60 lbs. pressure to the inch-would occupy, is round numbers, 40,000 cubic feet of space, and weigh over 3,000 lbs.

s required for the combustion of 100 lbs. of coal, or shout 14 000 feet under a pressure of four atmospheres And for ventilation, the entire air in an occupied room should be changed every few minutes during the whole 24 hours of each day, the exact time, of course, depending on the size of the room and number of These general ideas must show the folly of enterior

For purposes of blast, about 15,000 cubic feet of alr

nto an enterprise of this kind, for furnishing the City of New-York with motive power, blast, and ventile tion, until it is ascertained that Broadway, or some other street is wide enough to admit the diameter of main pipe of sufficient capacity, to economically comtain and conduct the material, which may be easily de termined, by a careful mathematical calculation. II. Leakage will be found a considerable item in the

expense account of operating the concerns. It is in possible to make all the working parts of a steamen gine perfectly tight without too much friction, and a air under the same pressure will leak freely through steam-tight joint, leakage must necessarily occur, not only in the condensing pump, but in every engine to which the air is applied, as well as at more or less of the cornections of the main pipes. As air rushes into a vactum, or under a considerable pressure into the atmosphere, with a velocity of about 2,000 feet per sacond, a great number of leak holes, though each may be extremely small, when added together, will be found to give an area sufficient, with a velocity of 2,000 feet per second, to discharge an immense quan

tity of air. III. The loss of heat in the compression of air will not only be a lose of power, but will occasion other practical difficulties, which may be sufficient in them selves to render a high pressure impracticable. The air-pump, or condenser, can only be worked under water to keep it cool, while the engines for using the condensed air, upless warmed by artificial heat, will become so cold as to render their lubrication difficult; es an intensity of cold may be produced by the expan-tion of compressed air, much greater than the coldes weather in Winter, as has been pratically demonstrated, by freezing blocks of ice a foot thick in New-

Orleans in Summer, when the thermometer indicated a temperature of 90°. Could so desirable an object as conveying through our streets an economical, safe and convenient motor ventilator and blast, be effected, it would be a desideratum second only in magnitude to those necessities o city life which we now erjoy-water and gas. But we think a fair and thorough mathematical calculation would give an approximation to the quantity of air required, the best amount of compression and loss of power, by friction, leakage, and otherwise, that

New METROD OF TESTING SUBMARIES TELE-

GRAPH CARLES -At the present moment there is

would at once show its impracticability.

naturally a great amount of interest felt in all matters connected with submarine telegraphic cables. and we constantly hear of new methods being proposed relating to the same. One of the most recent as well as important communications upon this subject is that which has been made by Mr. Reid, in England; and it is particularly deserv-ing of attention, inasmuch as by adopting the plan proposed much disappointment as to the operation of the cable may be prevented while at the same time a useless expenditure, both of time and money, would be avoided-the cable, by Mr. Reid's plan, being thoroughly tested as to its capability of recisting pressure before it leaves the manufactory. Mesers. Reid & Co., not content merely with submerging the cable and then applying pressure, subject it to a process of their own invention, during the operation if which any defect which may exist in the cable is at once made evident, and, if necessary, removed before any steps have been taken to lay it down. The plan of these engineers consists in exhausting the air from the vessel which contains the cable which it is deelrable to test, and then water is forced in until a force of about two hundred pounds per square inch is attained. To perform this operation they employ a vessel which is so constructed as to be possessed of sufficient strength, so as to resist the pressure of the almosphere when exhausted, and also at the same time the bydrostatic pressure to which the cable is to be subjected. The vessel in which the operation takes place is provided with a cover, so as to admit of a coil of insulated wire being introduced and inclosed therein. One end of the covered wire is conducted from the interior. through a shifting box, to the outside of the yessel; the other end of the wire is coated over as well, and insulated. All being thus arranged, a vacqum is formed, by means of air-pumps, in the vessel which contains the cable. The stop-cock of the air-pumps is now shut off, and the passage for the water is opened, so as to admit of the water entering into the ressel, to fill it, or, if desired, a quantity of water

may be allowed to enter into the vessel, so as to fill it

or nearly so before the pneumatic apparates is put

s connected with the outer end of the wire which has

been brought through the vessel, as described above. Pressure is next exerted by pumping water into the vessel, and then, on connecting the two poles of the battery with the galvanouneter and the water in the

into action. One end of the wire of a galvanor